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San Francisco, California 94114
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May 28, 1993

C-SPAN
400 North Capital Street, N.W.
Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

To whom it may concern:

According to the most recent newsletter of the San Francisco chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), C-SPAN has been receiving a great deal of negative response to its coverage of the rally held on Sunday, April 25, 1993 in conjunction with the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. We are writing to thank and commend you for that coverage.

Since the rally was held concurrently with the actual March, it was impossible to observe or take part in each event in its entirety. We chose to watch the March, and therefore did not see any of the rally on the Mall. We had heard earlier in the weekend on the local D.C. news that C-SPAN would be providing live coverage of the rally, and so we called Kate's parents in Staten Island, New York and asked them to tape the coverage for us. They did so -- which also gave them the opportunity to share in a gay cultural and political event that they otherwise would not have experienced -- and then mailed the tape to us when we returned to San Francisco. Watching your coverage, we had a chance to catch up with the events that we missed, as well as to relive a wonderful experience and a fabulous day in Washington.

But while we appreciate the fact that your excellent coverage of the rally allowed us to "have our cake and eat it, too," we are even more grateful for C-SPAN's treating this event as a legitimate news subject. To devote six hours of live programming to the March and rally was to grant the cause of gay and lesbian civil rights the attention and dignity that we feel it deserves. After hearing the U.S. Park Service's mind-boggling miscount of our numbers, and seeing the March relegated to a paragraph or two in the national newsweeklies, it is gratifying to have the network that broadcasts the proceedings of the United States Congress accord us the same consideration. In fact, tapes of the C-SPAN coverage are "hot items" in our community, with "Did you see the rally on C-SPAN?" the second most frequently asked question, after "Did you go to the March?"

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Thank you for providing us with a wonderful souvenir --
both in hand and in spirit -- of a very important event.

Sincerely,

